

DATE: April 6, 2001 (revision of 3/28/01)

TO: All Military Personnel

FROM: Mary S. Neal s/LeeAnn Thomas/for Director
APHIS Plant Health Programs
Plant Protection and Quarantine

SUBJECT: Revised USDA/APHIS Guidelines for the Military.
(Note the removal of disinfection requirements)

Entry into the United States of personnel, cargo, personal property, equipment and mail is overseen by the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Any items contaminated with soil, manure, and/or debris (organic matter) will be placed on USDA Hold and must be cleaned prior to release. Prohibited items will be seized and destroyed. USDA may issue civil penalties for noncompliance with agricultural laws.

MILITARY EQUIPMENT

1. All military rolling stock (i.e., trucks, humvees, weapons systems, tanks, etc.) and other used military field gear (i.e., field canvas tents and pegs) must be thoroughly cleaned.* Cleaning should occur before shipment to the United States.** If the military is unable to conduct cleaning overseas, the items will be held at the first U.S. port of arrival until the cleaning is done. If approved cleaning facilities are not available at a port, the equipment will be refused entry. The equipment will also be refused entry, if the cleaning facility at the port is not sufficient to handle the amount of contaminated equipment presented. Dirt and soil must be removed from the inside cab areas of trucks and humvees. Vacuuming/sweeping are acceptable removal methods. Give special attention to equipment parts that can harbor hidden debris (i.e., wheel wells, tracks, etc.).
2. Pallets, wooden crates, and other military goods must be free of soil, manure, and debris. If contamination is found, cleaning is required.*
3. Any military equipment used in FMD eradication efforts in the United Kingdom or other FMD affected countries WILL NOT BE ALLOWED ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES.

MILITARY AIRCRAFT

1. The surfaces of military fixed wing aircraft do not require disinfection. Compatibility data is not available for the use of any approved disinfectant on aircraft surfaces. Rotary aircraft skids are subject to inspection. If soil debris is found, then clean.
2. Garbage from aircraft and vessels must be kept in tight, leak proof containers. Garbage from a conveyance must be removed under USDA compliance agreement which includes disinfection procedures or direct supervision of a Plant Protection and Quarantine Officer.
3. Cargo and passenger areas in vessels and aircraft must be clean and free of soil and debris. Mechanical removal would be an acceptable cleanup method if organic matter is found.

MILITARY PERSONNEL

1. All military personnel must be cleared in the States through the Federal Inspection Services (FIS) and, if necessary, subjected to inspection by USDA.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

1. Privately owned vehicles (POV's) must be cleaned* before return to the United States. Particular attention must be given to the tires, wheel wells and undercarriage. POV's will require additional cleaning if evidence of soil, debris, or manure is found upon inspection in the United States. Exterior and interior must be free of dirt/soil/manure.
2. Prior to packing, garden tools, bicycles, and other outdoor items should be carefully examined for presence of dirt, soil, or manure. Any dirty or soiled item should be cleaned with soapy water.
3. Other household effects and other personal effects that are found to be dirty/soiled should be cleaned with soapy water prior to packing.
4. Most meats and meat products are prohibited, with the exception of canned shelf stable hams. Commercially produced hard cheese is allowable if the product does not contain meat. Generally, all other animal products should be considered prohibited unless specific clearance for entry has been given by USDA/APHIS.
5. Prior to packing, shoes must be free from dirt/soil/manure. If contaminated clean. Clothing contaminated with dirt or manure must be laundered prior to shipping.
6. Mail - No packages should be mailed to the United States that contain prohibited foods or other prohibited/restricted items. Do not mail sausages, meat products, soiled items, etc. Check with APO and FPO persons in charge if you have further questions.

SPECIAL MILITARY OPERATIONS

1. Any large scale movement of military personnel and equipment to the United States requires prior written notification and approval by USDA/APHIS. (*Refer to list of APHIS contacts under USDA/APHIS Contacts.*)

NOTE: This notification must include the number of involved personnel, type of exercise, length and location of exercise, and type of military equipment involved.

2. All precautions previously mentioned must be observed.

3. Arrival in the United States must be coordinated with USDA/APHIS. Entry of personnel and equipment will be overseen by USDA/APHIS.

USDA/APHIS CONTACTS:

Special military operations and preclearance requests:

David Reeves (e-mail - David.Reeves@usda.gov)

Stanley Cornelius (e-mail - Stanley.Cornelius@usda.gov)

U.S. port clearance questions and clarifications:

Candace Funk (e-mail - Candace.Funk@usda.gov)

PPQ-APHIS-USDA

4700 River Road Unit 60

Riverdale, MD 20737-1236

Telephone No.: 301-734-8295

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE, DIRECTION AND INFORMATION

See the USDA/APHIS website for Foot-and-Mouth Disease @ <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/oa/fmd/index.html>

Military returning from the EUCOM may also contact the USDA/APHIS representative in Mannheim, Germany - Delcio.Rivera@manupo.pmo.army.mil

Military base commanders in the United States are encouraged to contact their local USDA/APHIS/PPQ representative(s). A list of USDA/PPQ State offices is available at: www.aphis.usda.gov/travel/aqi.html

The UK Ministry of Agriculture has information on UK procedures and disinfectants approved for use in the UK on website www.maff.gov.uk

***Cleaning:**

Cleaning can be accomplished by:

1. Steam sterilizers
2. High pressure water
3. Washing with a .1 percent solution (5 Tablespoons/gallon) of bleach made from household bleach with 5.25 percent available chlorine may be used. Follow all label directions.

Note: Any combinations of 1, 2, and 3 above is also permissible.

****Cleaning must be documented on paperwork accompanying the shipment.**

Documentation must certify the following:

Cleaned

Cleaning Date

Name and Rank of Responsible Person.